

Latin American Zoo and Aquarium Association (ALPZA) Report

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During the period 2012-2013, the Latin American Zoo and Aquarium Association (ALPZA) represents 73 active members: 50 zoological institutions (47 in Latin America, 2 in Europe and 1 in the US), 15 professionals, 5 national and regional associations in Latin America, and 3 reciprocal associated organizations, in a total of 20 countries. Since 2012, ALPZA has welcomed 10 new members: Chicago Zoological Society (CZS, USA), Zoológico Parque Lecoq (Uruguay), Aquário de São Paulo (Brazil), Fundação Zoo-Botânica de Belo Horizonte (Brazil), Fundación Parque Cónдор (Ecuador), Sociedade de Zoológicos de Brasil (SZB); and 4 new professional (individual) members.

At our last General Assembly at the XX ALPZA Congress in São Paulo, Brazil, on June 2013, a new Board of Directors was elected for the period 2013-2015:

- President: Joao Batista da Cruz (São Paulo Zoo, Brazil)
- Vice-President: Damián Pellandini (Temaikén, Argentina)
- Secretary: Kurt Duchez (Zoológico Nacional La Aurora, Guatemala)
- Treasurer: Haydy Monsalve (Fundación Zoológico Santacruz, Colombia)
- Auditor: Frank Carlos Camacho (African Safari, Mexico)

Five Year Strategic Plan

Our 2010-2015 Strategic Plan defines our institutional strategy and priorities, enunciating our institutional mission, vision, and main aims.

MISSION: We are a platform that promotes the integral development of its members and inspires to obtain the most impact on biodiversity conservation, integrating the efforts of the Latin American region to global conservation goals.

VISION: To ensure the conservation of Latin American megabiodiversity harmoniously integrating humans with nature.

PRINCIPAL AIMS:

1. To promote strategies for the integral development of our members.
2. To positively impact biodiversity conservation in Latin America (Development of a regional conservation program).
3. To ensure the viability of populations of Latin American zoos and aquariums.

Organizational highlights

During our 2013 General Assembly, the figure of Corporate/Sponsor Membership was defined in three categories (gold, silver and bronze), which will allow ALPZA to receive funding from companies, institutions and organizations worldwide in order to promote capacity building and conservation projects among our members.

On June 2013, ALPZA launched its new website (on pilot mode: www.alpza.org) which will allow our Association, its members and collaborators to take full advantage of a more modern site, which new interesting features. We expect the new website to be fully working before the end of the year.

Currently, ALPZA is composed of 7 operational committees (modified at 2013 General Assembly): Accreditation & Ethics, Aquariums, Animal Welfare (sub-groups of Nutrition, Health, Behavioural Management, Zookeeper's Network), Conservation (sub-group of Amphibians), Organizational Development (sub-group of Communications & Marketing), Cooperative Population Management, and Education (sub-group of Professional Development and Scholarships).

Main conservation projects and events

ALPZA Certification Programme of Conservation Projects officially started with a great beginning on 2012. So far two conservation projects carried out by ALPZA members have been certified by ALPZA's Conservation Committee: The *Saguinus leucopus* project in Colombia, and the Andean Condor project in Argentina. The objective of this certification is to reward conservation projects with high impact on their region, in order to serve as a reference for similar projects and to inform the world community about the ALPZA certified projects, showing our high commitment to conservation. The certification process involves several steps of evaluation of the candidate projects by a panel of conservation specialists, representing different regions of ALPZA. During 2013, two projects are under assessment by ALPZA's Conservation Committee.

ALPZA was proud to have Kristin Leus (from EAZA & CBSG/IUCN) as one of the keynote speakers of our 2013 Congress in São Paulo. Kristin participated at the "*In situ and ex situ conservation*" session, together with renowned conservation specialists from our region. ALPZA values the importance of contributing to CBSG and hopes to keep participating actively in future activities.

Our Conservation Committee keeps promoting ALPZA's merchandising material for fundraising for conservation capacity building initiatives, consisting in beautiful t-shirts, bookmarks and suitcase nametags, with attractive messages promoting conservation initiatives. ALPZA members and collaborators can sell these items at their souvenir shops, fundraising for these initiatives but also informing the public about the important role Latin American zoos and aquariums have in conservation.

ALPZA continues working on developing Cooperative Species Management Programs and their Studbooks for regional species. Special attention has received the ALPZA penguin program. Currently, ALPZA members coordinate 2 international studbooks (ISBs) from WAZA: Cotton top tamarin (*Saguinus oedipus*), and Maroon-fronted parrot (*Rhynchopsitta terrisi*).

ALPZA continues its Capacity Building and Scholarships Programmes, through 5 events carried out during the period 2012-2013, in 4 countries of Latin America, all of them including scholarships for ALPZA members. In total, ALPZA facilitated 11 scholarships during the period, for staff of ALPZA zoos and aquariums, including zookeepers, educators, veterinarians, and others. All these courses and workshops included topics related to *in situ* and *ex situ* conservation, as well as

animal welfare, such as: Xenarthra management and conservation, Environmental Education Congress, Zookeepers workshops, among others.

During our 2013 Congress, ALPZA, São Paulo Zoo and Temaikèn conducted an “*Advances in Wild Animal Care*” workshop, partially funded by WAZA’s Training Grant. This workshop lasted for 4 days, and counted with 4 instructors, and 45 attendees from 8 different Latin American countries, mainly zoo and aquarium keepers. The funds from WAZA were used to give full scholarships to 4 zookeepers from 4 ALPZA institution members from 3 countries. A Selection Board of experts selected these recipients from over 50 applicants, from all over Latin America, number that shows the huge interest of our members to train their keepers. During the workshop, attendees and facilitators discussed relevant issues for the zoo and aquarium community to raise the animal care and welfare standards in Latin America.

ALPZA has strengthened its communication strategy, through the publication of our new membership brochure (released in Spanish, English and Portuguese), our online Newsletter called “*Developing Community*” (released in Spanish, English and Portuguese, Vol. 3 released past May), the Conservation in Latin America online Newsletter (Vol. 6 already past May), and through our new website (www.alpza.org) and our old website (www.alpza.com ; valid until March 2014), our Facebook fan page (Alpza Zoos), and our Twitter account (@ALPZA_Zoos). We welcome you to visit us on our websites, like us on Facebook, and follow us on Twitter!

Future projects and events

Our XXI Annual Congress will be held in the cultural and culinary city of Lima, Perú, 28th April – 2nd of May, 2014, hosted by Patronato del Parque de las Leyendas (PAT-PAL). **ALPZA is receiving applications** for international speakers, oriented to those actively participating in conservation, education and animal welfare projects involving Latin American species/ecosystems (direccion@alpza.com). We look forward for meet all of you in Lima!

ALPZA, through its Latin American Zookeepers’ Network, is organizing the 1st Conference of Latin American Zookeepers, as a satellite conference of the 2014 Congress in Lima. **FUNDING is needed** to provide full scholarships to zookeepers (direccion@alpza.com).

ALPZA, through its Conservation Committee, is organizing a Strategic Planning Workshop for Integrated Conservation in Latin America, as a satellite workshop of the ALPZA 2015 Congress in Argentina. **FUNDING is needed** to provide full scholarships to attendees (direccion@alpza.com).